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WORCESTER

Heart of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A TOWN · JUNE 14, 1722 + A CITY · FEB. 29, 1848 + WORCESTER +

POPULATION · 179,754 (Federal Census, 1920)
AREA - - - - - - 38.41 SQUARE MILES
ELEVATION · 481 FEET ABOVE TIDE-WATER

For further information address
WORCESTER CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Early History

STEADY wholesome development with neither boom nor set back has been characteristic of Worcester from the time of its first permanent settlement in 1713.

In 1669, a committee of the General Court decided that the tract of land lying on the west shore of "Quinsigamond" and near the outlet of "Nipmap" might possibly support from 30 to 60 families. Twice (1674 and 1683) was settlement attempted. Twice (1675 and 1702) were the settlers driven out by the Indians, and in 1718 there were probably not over 200 inhabitants in this territory which included not only the present Worcester but also the towns of Holden and Auburn.

The plantation at Quinsigamond which was given the name of Worcester in 1684, was in 1722 vested with the powers and privileges of other towns within the province, and in 1780 declared to be, as were they, a body corporate.

In 1731, it was made the shire town of the new county of Worcester then set up, chosen not so much on account of its importance as of its central situation.

Until the victory of Wolfe at Quebec and the peace of 1763, Worcester was a frontier town, in an isolated position, constantly in danger of attack from the north and as late as 1783, with a population of some 2,000, it was but seventh among the towns of the county, though third in wealth.

Utilization of the water power on its various streams, and the establishment of industries, almost as varied as are those of the present time, brought it by 1825, forty-two years later, to the position of the largest and wealthiest town in the county, with a population of 3900.

A town that manufactured hats, clocks, chairs, paper, cards, carpets, corduroys and fustians, cotton, cotton and woolen machinery, and many other things could no longer be allowed to depend on wagons for transportation and in 1828 the Blackstone Canal was opened between Worcester and Providence.

The resulting diversion of trade undoubtedly stimulated the building of the Boston and Worcester Railroad which was completed in 1835 and Worcester began a development which has continued to the present day. The opening of the railroad to Norwich in 1840, to Providence in 1847, and finally to Springfield in 1849 firmly established Worcester as a center and gave to her the name she has since held, "The Heart of the Commonwealth."

Immortals of Worcester and Worcester County

Worcester and Worcester County have been the home of many notable men and women, including:

General Artemas Ward, the first American to receive the commission of General under American authority.
General Rufus Putnam, Chief Engineer of the Continental Army.
Colonel Timothy Bigelow, Commander of the "Minute Men" who marched from Worcester to Cambridge at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.
Isaiah Thomas, Patriot and Printer; Publisher of the *Massachusetts Spy*, in which was printed the first copy of the Declaration of Independence to appear in a New England newspaper.
Eli Whitney, Inventor of the Cotton Gin.
George Bancroft, Historian, Statesman, and Founder of the Naval School at Annapolis.
Dorothea Lynde Dix, Protector of the World's Insane.
John S. C. Abbott, Historian.
Elihu Burritt, the "Learned Blacksmith."
Elias Howe, Jr., Inventor of the Sewing Machine.
Dr. William T. G. Morton, Discoverer of the use of ether as an anaesthetic.
Eli Thayer, Originator of the "Kansas Crusade."
General Charles Devens, of Civil War fame.
Andrew Haswell Green, "Father of Greater New York."
Clara Barton, Founder of the American Red Cross.
Edward Everett Hale, Clergyman and Author.
George Frisbie Hoar, Eminent Statesman.

UNION STATION

"City of Diversified Industries"

Worcester has the largest population of any manufacturing city in the country not on a waterway, and is known throughout the world as the "City of Diversified Industries." It is one of the greatest machine tool centers in the world, and is the center for rolling mill construction.

Worcester has several industrial establishments that are the largest in their line in the country, and in some cases in the world. Among the Worcester factories that are world-known are those which produce: Steel and Wire, Machine Tools, Wire Goods, Coiled Springs, Grinding Wheels, Carpets and Rugs, Leather and Leather Goods, Corsets, Shoes, Envelopes, Woolens, Skates, Wall Paper, Vacuum Cleaners, Valentines, Looms, Steam and Electric Cars, Automobile Parts, Firearms, Boilers, Clippers, Sprinkler Systems, Wrenches, Crankshafts, Textile Machinery, Wool-Spinning Machinery, Wire Nail Machinery, Precision Gauges and Chains.

Worcester has more than 600 manufacturing establishments, with invested capital amounting to $203,000,000. The annual product value is approximately $255,000,000.

Worcester has excellent available factory sites regarding which information may be secured from the Industrial Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce.

Transportation

Worcester is served by three railroads—the Boston & Albany; New York, New Haven & Hartford; and the Boston & Maine,—and two trolley freight lines.

Motor truck lines operate in all directions to points within a radius of 100 to 150 miles. Regular service is maintained also between Worcester and New York City, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and intermediate points.

There are 200 passenger trains running in and out of Union Station daily, including through trains to New York City and the West.

Worcester and its surrounding territory is well covered by street railways. Trolley trips can be taken in practically all directions and for unusually long distances.

A GLIMPSE OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT FROM CITY HALL

Mercantile

Worcester is the shopping center for Worcester County, with a trading population of approximately 450,000. The city is well provided with thoroughly modern stores, including five department stores occupying more than 1,000,000 square feet.

Approximately 25,000 are employed in retail establishments, and the retail merchants' business aggregates $90,000,000 annually.

An Educational Center

Worcester has been an educational center for nearly 90 years. It is the seat of Clark University, founded in 1887 (Collegiate Department founded in 1901); Holy Cross College, founded in 1843, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1865; Worcester Academy, founded in 1832; Assumption College, founded in 1903; Massachusetts State Normal School, founded in 1874; Worcester Boys' Trade School, founded in 1909; Worcester Girls' Trade School, founded in 1911.

Worcester is a leading city in the world of intercollegiate sports, due to its enthusiastic support of college and school athletic contests. An attendance of 10,000 at a college baseball game is not infrequent.

Worcester has 71 grammar school buildings, four high school buildings, one continuation school building, and ten portable buildings. These buildings and the land are valued at $4,596,388.

Worcester has 29,000 public school pupils enrolled in the day schools and 5,200 in the evening schools. There are in the public day schools 985 grammar and high school teachers, 23 continuation teachers, and two Americanization supervisors, and in evening schools, 179 teachers.

There are ten parochial schools in Worcester, three of them having high school departments.

Worcester has one of the largest and best equipped private day schools in New England—The Bancroft School.

Worcester also has several other excellent private, and business schools.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Clark · University

Holy · Cross · College

Worcester · Academy

·Girls Trade School·

·State Normal School·

Boys · Trade · School

The Worcester Art Museum, founded in 1896 by Stephen Salisbury, contains galleries of paintings and sculpture together with collections of various objects of art. The museum, which is among the finest in the United States, has an endowment of $4,000,000.

* * *

The Worcester Music Festival, which has been held annually for more than 60 years, is one of the most renowned in the United States and is a national institution.

* * *

Worcester is the home of the American Antiquarian Society, which has a Library Building erected at a cost of $200,000. The Society was founded in Worcester in 1812 and is one of the most distinguished historical bodies in this country. The library is on Salisbury Street, corner of Park Avenue.

* * *

The Worcester Historical Society, (formerly the Worcester Society of Antiquity) was founded in 1875 and has a valuable library and museum at 39 Salisbury Street.

* * *

The museum of the Worcester Natural History Society (organized in 1829) at 12 State Street, is recognized for the excellence of its collections.

Churches

Worcester has more than 100 churches with property valued at over $3,000,000. Many of these churches are beautiful structures and are the object of civic pride.

Libraries

The service libraries of the city, containing over 600,000 volumes, co-operate by specializing in certain fields. This enables them to render better service to the city as a whole. All of the following are open for reference use; the Public and Law Libraries, for circulation also:

American Antiquarian Society, Salisbury Street, cor. Park Avenue, founded 1812. Aim: Collection and preservation of material relating to American history. The library includes extensive files of American newspapers and old directories from many cities. 140,000 vols. Open 9-5, Saturdays, 9-1; closed Sundays and holidays.

Clark University, 936 Main Street. Founded 1889. 100,000 vols. Open 8-5. Closed Sundays and holidays.

Free Public Library, 12 Elm Street. Founded 1859. General; specially rich in fine and useful arts, biography and history. 237,554 vols. Open 9 a. m. - 9.30 p. m. Sundays for reference, 2.00-9.00 p. m. Branches at 470 West Boylston Street, 705 Southbridge Street, and 812 Millbury Street. (23,000 vols.)

Worcester Art Museum, 56 Salisbury Street. Founded 1898. Art, history and criticism, prints. 4,562 vols. Open 9-5; Sundays, 2-5.

Worcester County Horticultural Society, 18 Front Street. Founded 1846. Horticulture. 3,751 vols. Open, 9-5; Saturdays, 9-1.

Worcester County Law Library, 14 Court House. Founded 1842. 38,393 vols. Open, 9-5; Saturdays, 9-1.

Worcester District Medical Association, 18 Elm Street. Founded 1820. 10,000 vols. Specially strong in medical periodicals. May be used for reference at the Free Public Library.

State Armory

Worcester County Court House

Post-Office

American Antiquarian Society

St. Pauls Catholic Church

Worcester Art Museum

Union Congregational Church

First Baptist Church

Worcester Historical Society, 39 Salisbury Street. Founded 1875 as the Worcester Society of Antiquity. 40,000 books and pamphlets on local history, genealogy, etc. Open 2-5 p. m.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Boynton Street. Founded 1870. Scientific and technical. 19,500 vols.

The Chamber of Commerce maintains, for public reference, a library of about 200 current city directories from all parts of the United States.

Financial

Worcester depositors have never lost a dollar through a bank failure.

Its financial institutions include:

Five Savings Banks with:	
Total Deposits	$96,500,000
Total Assets	105,000,000
Two National Banks with:	
Total Capital	1,200,000
Total Surplus and Undivided Profits	1,950,000
Total Deposits	25,250,000
Total Assets	30,750,000
Two Trust Companies with:	
Total Capital	1,800,000
Total Surplus and Undivided Profits	1,950,000
Total Deposits	33,500,000
Total Assets	38,800,000
Total Trust Funds	6,310,000
Four Co-operative Banks with:	
Total Assets	5,500,000
Grand total of bank resources	$186,350,000

Worcester bank clearings are over $235,000,000 annually.

* * *

Worcester has four insurance companies—one life and three mutual fire insurance, whose total assets are approximately $70,000,000 with a total surplus of over $5,000,000.

Worcester is the home of one of the oldest life insurance companies in the country. It was founded in 1844, does an active business in 23 states, and has insurance in force of $335,000,000.

Postal Service

The main Worcester post office has 88 clerks and 72 carriers. There are four sub-stations with 19 clerks and 49 carriers. Contract stations are situated at various convenient places in the city, in department stores, drug stores, or similar establishments. At present there are 24 of these stations which are equipped for selling stamps, issuing money orders, and handling parcel post and registry business. The postal receipts for the last fiscal year were $858,000. Money orders were issued to the amount of $2,000,000.

Water Supply

Worcester has a double water supply consisting of a high and low service system

The high service has five impounding reservoirs located in the towns of Leicester and Paxton, with a total storage of 1,500,000,000 gallons, furnishing a water pressure of 145 pounds at City Hall.

The low service system has three reservoirs with a total storage of 1,800,000,000 gallons and a new reservoir to be completed in 1923 will add 3,000,000,000 gallons.

The low service pressure at City Hall is 100 pounds.

Worcester is one of the few cities in the country placed in the highest class in water supply and fire protection by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

There are 319 miles of main water pipes, 2,743 hydrants, 4,548 water gates, 21,614 meters, 22,421 service pipes.

The cost of the works to date has been $8,330,094.

The average daily consumption is 16,576,000 gallons.

The draft per capita is 90.4 gallons, and the total revenue from the sale of water, $624,000.

Street System

Worcester has a total of 224.6 miles of public streets, of which 30 miles are paved; 91 miles macadamized, and 104.4 miles of gravel and dirt construction.

There are 59 miles of granolithic sidewalks, 89 miles of brick sidewalks, and 10 miles of concrete sidewalks.

Worcester was the first city in the United States to adopt the swinging arm type of trolley car flusher. The first piece of improved grouted granite block paving, on a concrete base, was laid in Worcester.

Worcester is "a city of trees" and beautiful shade trees line many of the residential streets.

Sewer System

Worcester has 251 miles of sewers; a sewage purification works costing $1,284,208.01; a pumping system costing $19,892.69, and a sewer system costing $6,460,508.99. The total cost is $7,764,609.69. Total number of manholes, 8,317. Total number of catch-basins, 3,930.

Public Protection

Worcester has a police department of 320 men. The city is divided into four police precincts, with four police precinct stations, and a well established and efficient detective bureau. Worcester has traffic and motorcycle squads, each consisting of 20 men.

The police department equipment is motorized and consists of seven ambulances and touring cars, and 20 motorcycles; also a riot gun mounted on a motorcycle ready for any emergency.

* * *

Worcester has one of the best equipped fire departments in the country, housed in 22 buildings. There are 290 men in the department and most of the equipment is motorized.

* * *

The last report of the Board of Health showed the death-rate per thousand residents to be 12.30.

Worcester has medical inspection in the public schools and the Board of Health has established, with the co-operation of the school department, controlled Fresh Air Units by which children physically below standard are placed in a room by themselves and attention given to their diet and mode of living, with splendid results.

Worcester has five hospitals—City Hospital, Memorial Hospital, St. Vincent Hospital, Hahnemann Hospital and Belmont Hospital, the latter a hospital for the treatment of communicable diseases, conducted under the direction of the Board of Health; also a state hospital and an emergency hospital.

INSTITUTE PARK

Parks and Playgrounds

Worcester was the first city in the United States to purchase land for park purposes and has 18 parks with an acreage of 1,091.88. These parks are among the most beautiful in the country and in most instances retain their natural attractiveness. Worcester also has 74 acres of playgrounds.

The recreation grounds have 25 tennis courts, 21 baseball diamonds, 15 picnic groves, four toboggan slides and the first muncipal club house in America. During a summer season 425,000 children attend the playgrounds and swimming beaches. Worcester has a Municipal Golf Course with over 500 registered players.

* * *

Lake Quinsigamond forms the eastern boundary of the city. Hundreds of canoes, rowboats, motoboats and sailboats constitute the "lake fleet." The 1919 and 1920 regattas of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen were rowed on the lake course, which rowing authorities consider the equal of any in the country.

Valuation of Worcester

Worcester has a valuation, subject to local taxation, of $247,700,000; also property exempt from taxation valued at $15,584,000; and city-owned property valued at more than $26,000,000.

Worcester has a borrowing capacity within the debt limit of $2,400,000.

LAKE QUINSIGAMOND BRIDGE

THE COMMON BANCROFT HOTEL

General Fact

More than 30 hotels including the Bancroft, a modern hostelry valued at more than $1,000,000.

11 theatres, one of which is connected with a summer outing park.

A union passenger station that cost more than $1,000,000.

29,000 telephone stations with 160,000 local and 5,500 toll calls daily.

Four daily newspapers and one Sunday newspaper.

A modern electric light and power plant. The maximum rate for electricity is lower than that of any other company in the state. Worcester has also more underground cables than any other city of its size in the state. The city is also served by a high voltage electric power system that operates over a large territory.

A thoroughly up-to-date gas plant, giving splendid service.

Active and energetic Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange, Automobile and Advertising Clubs.

A Boys' Club that is a model in its equipment and accomplishments. The club has 4300 members, a number equal to one-fourth of all the school-boys in the city.

A Y. M. C. A. with building and equipment larger than that of any city of its size in the country.

A Masonic Temple considered one of the finest in the East.

A Woman's Club of 1000 members, occupying a club house that cost $100,000.

A fair grounds and half-mile trotting park, at which the Fair of the New England and Worcester Agricultural Societies is held each fall. The Fair has been conducted annually for more than 100 years.

Several other organizations owning buildings are: G. A. R.; D. A. R.; B. P. O. E.; Knights of Pythias; Knights of Columbus; Odd Fellows; Y. W. C. A.; A. O. H.; Catholic Women's Club.

Several country clubs with excellent golf courses in the city and suburbs. The Worcester Country Club's eighteen-hole course is regarded as one of the finest in New England.

A Worcester Welfare Federation, through which funds for charity are raised by an intensive annual campaign.

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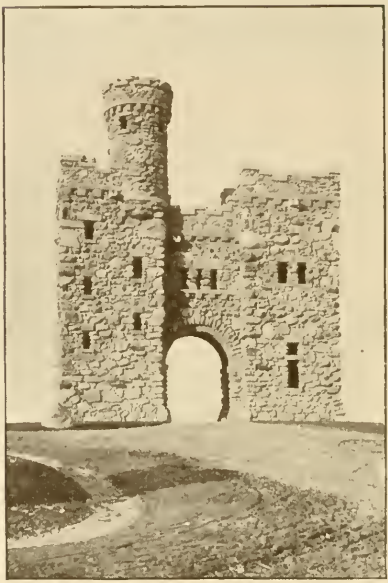

BANCROFT TOWER
Named for George Bancroft, Historian

THE DAVIS PRESS, WORCESTER

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